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Address. Ian J. Mason, CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Rangelands Research, P.O. Box 780, Atherton, Queensland 4883, Australia.

The nomenclature of *Buteo oreophilus*

by A. H. James and J. Wattel

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In 1914, Hartert & Neumann described a species of buzzard from Koritscha, Ethiopia, under the name *Buteo oreophilus,* giving as the range of this species the mountain areas of central, northeast, and east Africa. Sclater (1919) was the first to suggest that the resident buzzards of southern Africa might also belong to the same species (see also Roberts 1940, Courtenay-Latimer 1941). It was not until 1957 that Rudebeck formally described and named the South African segment of this resident buzzard as *Buteo buteo trizonatus,* type locality Knysna, Cape Province. Hesitantly, he followed Meinertzhagen (1951) in considering both *oreophilus* and *trizonatus* as conspecific with the Eurasian *Buteo buteo*. Since then the taxonomic affinity of these forms has been examined by many authors, resulting in widely varying conclusions. A. H. J. intends to discuss the taxonomy of the group (James in prep.), but before doing so there is a need to clear up the nomenclatural confusion that has arisen recently from Brooke's (1974) conclusion that in his opinion Rudebeck (1957) was not the first author to describe the South African form of *Buteo*.

In 1830, Andrew Smith started publication of a series of papers in the South African Quarterly Journal, which he apparently intended should form a kind of catalogue of South African birds. In trying to identify these birds he referred to Levaillant's *Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux d'Afrique* (1799-1808) and to Daudin's *Traité élémentaire et complet d' ornithologie* (1800). The latter work gave binominal scientific names. After citing these, Smith gave careful descriptions of the material he had at hand. At the time these were not meant to constitute descriptions of new species (Mees 1967, Clancey *et al.* 1971), but they were later considered as such by him and also by other authors.

Among the species of *Buteo* found in South Africa, Smith (1830) listed *Buteo tachardus* (*Falco tachardus* Daudin, 1800) and *Buteo desertorum* (*Falco desertorum* Daudin, 1800). *Falco tachardus* Daudin is based upon Le Tachard as depicted on Plate 19 in Levaillant (published in 1799), and *Falco desertorum* Daudin on Le Rougri (Plate 17 in Levaillant 1799). Both names, and particularly *F. desertorum* have later been applied to *Buteo buteo vulpinus* Gloger, 1833, a migrant to South Africa. However, Hartert (1914:1125) was of the opinion that Le Rougri is unidentifiable [. . . Figment of fantasy! The fox-red upperparts, the description of the underparts, the beautiful yellow bill, especially mentioned in the description, void the use of the name *desertorum*. On top of all this, the miraculous animal should be resident in South Africa and breed there]; and that Le Tachard refers to *Pernis apivorus* (Linnaeus,

1758). Brooke (1974), however, was of the opinion that Hartert's conclusions were irrelevant and that Smith clearly described a recognizable species under a new name, using *Buteo* as the generic name instead of *Falco*. Brooke stated: "*Buteo tachardus* Smith, 1830 is an unequivocal description of what Rudebeck (1957, 1958) clarified under the name *Buteo buteo trizonatus*". Brooke's conclusion is primarily based on Smith's description of a small raptor with a clear white upper abdomen between the brown streaked and blotched breast and lower abdomen, which is similar to the ventral tri-zoned pattern in *trizonatus*. Also 2 of Smith's surviving specimens in the British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH) were identified by Rudebeck (1958) as belonging to *B. b. trizonatus*. The consequence of Brooke's view is that the long-established name *B. oreophilus* of East Africa becomes a subspecies of *Buteo tachardus* Smith, 1830, since the latter is the older name to apply to the species. In addition Brooke stated that Smith did not work outside Cape Province and that Knysna can be regarded as the restricted type locality. He suggested that one of the surviving specimens collected by Smith should be chosen as a lectotype if one was required.

After carefully reviewing Smith's description we concede it may, at least in part, be a description fitting *trizonatus,* but we cannot agree that it is an unequivocal description. Brooke quotes as significant Smith's description of the underparts; but this can apply to *trizonatus* only if we understand Smith's "posterior part of the belly" to be an area of the belly nearer the vent, thus construing that the "anterior" belly is unmarked. Smith, however, also mentions that in some specimens the breast and belly are almost divested of spots, while in others the whole underparts are densely covered with streaks or roundish blotches. These patterns can also characterize *B. b. vulpinus,* especially immatures, where the underparts may vary from being completely unmarked except for thin streaks to being completely marked with streaks or oblong blotches. The colour of the legs and toes are greenish yellow according to Smith but pale yellow to wax yellow or brownish (Rudebeck 1957) in *trizonatus*. Smith described the young bird as "below brownish red, with shafts of the feathers black". This certainly does not fit the description of an immature *trizonatus*. Smith stated further: "In most instances the tail is grayish brown, banded with blackish brown, yet in not a few is it deep chesnut (*sic*) or bright rufous, and distinctly banded transversely by numerous black lines". This unequivocally describes a *vulpinus* tail.

Furthermore, Smith remarks that *tachardus* "inhabits the whole of South Africa". This fits excellently the distribution of *vulpinus,* but hardly applies to *trizonatus*. With reference to *B. desertorum,* Smith said that he had never met with this species. This would be surprising if Smith had meant to describe *Buteo buteo vulpinus* under the name *desertorum* as Brooke (1974) will have it, since *vulpinus* greatly out-numbers *trizonatus*. During several seasons in South Africa, Rudebeck (1963) observed only 5 individuals of *trizonatus* compared to about 400 *vulpinus*. According to Roberts (1936), Smith spent at least 3 years in the Cape Province prior to 1830. It seems unbelievable that he never met with *vulpinus* during that time, but quite natural that he did not observe any bird answering the description of *Falco desertorum* Daudin, 1800, since such a species does not exist (Hartert 1914). It becomes clear that both *trizonatus* and *vulpinus* specimens were included in the series Smith identified as *B. tachardus*.

During a visit to the BMNH at Tring in 1982, A. H. J. was only able to locate 5 out of 8 of Smith's *Buteo* specimens registered there. According to the museum's register 5 *Buteo* specimens were received directly from Smith. These were listed as: 1845.7.6.54 *Buteo lagopus* (Natal); 55 *Buteo communis* (Natal); 57 *Buteo tachardus*; 60 *Buteo* (*tachardus*); 112 *Buteo mentalis*. Of these only numbers 54 and 60 were located after a thorough search through specimens of other genera and through all *Buteo* specimens. The names in the register are presumably from Smith's own labels. All 3 specimens registered in the Norwich Castle Collection (1955.6.N.2175,2176,2177), now incorporated in the BMNH, were found. Smith's original specimen labels were not available on any except for specimen number 60. There may be more specimens in other collections.

Specimen number 54, registered as *B. lagopus,* was identified by Rudebeck (1958) as *B. b. trizonatus*. Specimen number 60 was registered only as *Buteo,* but on Smith's original label *tachardus* was written in pencil on the front side, crossed out, but again written on the back. The rest of the label was written in black ink. This specimen is without doubt a melanistic *B. b. vulpinus*. The 3 specimens from the Norwich Castle Collection are all registered as *B. desertorum*. One, (No. 2175), was identified by Rudebeck (1958) as a ♂ immature *B. b. trizonatus,* as given on the specimen label; but in the register it was recorded as a ♀ immature. The wing length would seem to indicate a ♀. A. H. J. identified specimen 2176 as *trizonatus* and specimen number 2177 as clearly being a *vulpinus*. All measurements are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Measurements of *Buteo* specimens collected by Sir Andrew Smith in South Africa, from the British Museum (Natural History). (*worn plumage)

Register Number and Species	Coll. No.	wing	tail	culmen	tarsus	bare tarsus	sex	age	identification
1845.7.6.54 *Buteo lagopus* (Natal)	—	329	163	—	67	—	–	ad.	*B. o. trizonatus*
1845.7.6.60 *Buteo* (*tachardus*)	46	388	205	—	75	40	–	ad.	*B. b. vulpinus*
1955.6.N.2175 *B. desertorum* ♀ im.	9	353	182	23.0	69	37	♀	imm.	*B. o. trizonatus*
1955.6.N.2176 *B. desertorum* ♀	10	359	184	23.0	70	32	♀	ad.	*B. o. trizonatus*
1955.6.N.2177 *B. desertorum* ♀ im.	11	346*	184	20.5	70	42	♂	imm.	*B. b. vulpinus*

Despite the fact that Brooke (1974), presumably acting as first reviser, clearly did not examine Smith's original material, he stated that Smith's name must be used. However, we are of the opinion that it should not. Most importantly, Smith's name *Buteo tachardus* is preoccupied. Vieillot (1823:1224) described a species of buzzard under the heading La Buse Tacharde. 21. *B.*(*uteo*) *Tachardus,* referring to Plate 19 in Levaillant (1799) and to *Falco tachardus* as published by Latham (1809), and he listed it under the buzzards with scantily feathered lores (p. 1217, "lorums un peu velus"). In view of the fact that Levaillant's Tachard is now generally accepted as *Pernis apivorus,* it is remarkable that Vieillot described *B.*(*uteo*) *Apivorus* under number 22 in the next section of his genus *Buteo,* which covers species with lores covered in small scale-like feathers (p. 1224, "lorums couverts de

petites plumes très serrées, et en forme d'écailles"). We suggest that Vieillot's name must be considered as indeterminable but that whatever he may have had in mind in naming *Buteo tachardus,* the name was validly published 7 years before Smith applied it to a mixed series of *Buteo oreophilus trizonatus* and *B. buteo vulpinus. Buteo tachardus* Vieillot, 1823 was known in the 19th century and cited by Giebel (1872:516, in the synonymy of *Buteo vulgaris=Buteo buteo*), and by Sharpe (1874:345, in the synonymy of *Pernis apivorus*). The citation in Sharpe is confused by a printing error in the page number, which is given as 224. Moreover, the authors of the name are given as Bonnaterre et Vieillot. J. P. Bonnaterre died in 1804 and Vieillot alone was responsible for part 3 of the *Tableau Encyclopédique et Méthodique des Trois Règnes de la Nature— Ornithologie,* which appeared in 1823 (Sherborn & Woodward 1906).

If one is to accept Brooke's view, many problems are encountered. In picking a lectotype, all Smith's *Buteo* specimens must be considered and not just the 2 reported in Rudebeck (1958), as suggested by Brooke (1974). Since Smith's surviving series contains both *vulpinus* and *trizonatus,* either form could be chosen as a lectotype. However, we prefer to consider Smith's description of *Buteo tachardus* not only as not having had the intention of describing a new species, but also as one describing an unidentifiable taxon. Smith's series contains at least 2 separate taxa, and it even seems that those specimens now identified as *trizonatus* were identified by Smith under an array of names, and those under *tachardus* were in fact a misidentification of *Falco tachardus* Daudin. Therefore, strictly speaking *B. tachardus* Smith has no nomenclatural status (G. F. Mees *in litt.*). Consequently no choice of a lectotype is necessary.

We want to point out that Brooke's suggestion of restricting the type locality to Knysna in the southern Cape Province is stretching the evidence. According to Roberts (1936), Smith collected only in the western and northern Cape before 1830.

Stresemann & Amadon (1979) did not recognize *B. tachardus,* but listed it questioningly under *B. oreophilus,* although it could as well have been under *B. buteo vulpinus* (D. Amadon *in litt.*). We, similarly, conclude that Rudebeck (1957) validly described a new taxon, hitherto confused with *Buteo buteo vulpinus* and *Buteo oreophilus,* and that his name *Buteo trizonatus* must be used for the resident Mountain Buzzard of Southern Africa. Most will call it a race of *oreophilus* considering *B. buteo* specifically distinct.

We want to mention here another possible problem regarding the nomenclature of *Buteo oreophilus.* Temminck & Schlegel (1844:16) renamed the common buzzard of the Cape ("la buse commune du Cap") *Buteo capensis,* now generally accepted as a synonym for *B. b. vulpinus.* They referred to both le Tachard and le Rougri of Levaillant, which they considered to be the juvenile and adult of *B. capensis.* They also referred to *Falco tachardus* as published by Shaw (1826) and gave a short description of it, presumably based on 3 specimens at Leiden in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie (RMNH). While examining this series of syntypes, A. H. J. noticed that in fact one showed the typical three-zoned pattern of *B. oreophilus trizonatus.* The measurements confirmed the identification (Table 2). As the other 2 specimens are clearly *vulpinus,* we select one of the 2 *vulpinus* specimens as the lectotype: RMNH catalogue number 1. Thus the result is the retention of *Buteo capensis* as junior synonym of *Buteo b. vulpinus.*

On account of the consideration given above and in the interest of stability of nomenclature, an urgency apparently overlooked or neglected by Brooke, we conclude that the names *Buteo oreophilus* Hartert & Neumann 1914 for the African Mountain Buzzard and *Buteo oreophilus trizonatus* Rudebeck 1957 as its South African subspecies should firmly stand.

TABLE 2

Syntypes of *Buteo capensis* Temminck & Schlegel, 1844 at the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlylee Historie at Leiden

Museum	Number	Locality	age	wing	tail	culm.	tarsus	bare tarsus
RMNHL	2	Cape (Prov.); "Kneisna"	ad.	343	168	21.2	69	32
RMNHL	1	Afrique, aust.	ad.	348	169	21.0	71	—
RMNHL	3	Wolga, Russie	ad.	375	190	21.8	72	—

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Address. A. H. James & Dr. J. Wattel, Instituut voor Taxonomische Zoölogie, Zoölogisch Museum, Postbus 20125, 1000 HC Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

A new antwren from northeastern Brazil

by D. M. Teixeira and L. P. Gonzaga

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In the early months of 1979, the Ornithological Section of the Museu Nacional began field work in the residual Atlantic Forests of northeastern Brazil. Our main goal was to locate and study the nominate form of the Razor-billed Curassow *Mitu mitu*, the most endangered Brazilian member of the Cracidae. Some areas of Alagoas were visited, including the "Serra Branca", county of Murici (c. 9° 15'S. 35° 50'W), a forest located on the lower slopes of the coastal "Chapada da Borborema" at 550m.

It was quite a surprise that our researches at "Serra Branca" led to the discovery of birds never reported north of the São Francisco river and, above all, to undescribed species. In another paper (Teixeira & Gonzaga, in press), we describe a new *Philydor* (Furnariidae) and now we describe a new Formicariid of the genus *Terenura,* naming it in honour of Dr. Helmut Sick, who introduced us to ornithology. For all references on colours we used Villalobos & Villalobos (1947), with citation of the respective code.

Orange-bellied Antwren **Terenura sicki** sp. nov.

Holotype. Museu Nacional-UFRJ No. 32048. Inactive ♀, from "Serra Branca", Murici, Alagoas, northeastern Brazil (c. 9° 15'S, 35° 50'W), collected 7 February 1979.

Distribution. Known only from the type locality. The first *Terenura* from northeastern Brazil.

Description of Holotype. Crown with black and pale yellowish buff (OOY-16-6°) bordered feathers, with a streaked aspect. The superciliaries, face and auriculars also pale yellowish buff, the last 2 lightly dotted with black. Sides of neck olive grey (OOY-12-3°). Mantle, rump and upper tail coverts chestnut (0-9-8°); tail olivaceous grey (0-8-1°). Lesser and median upper wing coverts black with light apical grey (0-13-1°) spots; greater wing coverts plumbeous (0-7-0) bordered with buff (0-16-5°). Primaries and secondaries ashy-black (0-6-1°) with grey borders and with a whitish basal stripe on the inner web. Tertiaries also ashy-black, but bordered with chestnut; scapulars as the mantle. Wing lining and under wing coverts whitish. Throat whitish orange (OOY-16-9°) slightly dotted with black. Breast the same, but almost plain and shaded towards orange (OOY-16-9°), underparts plain orange (O-16-11°). Iris brown, mandible brown, maxilla plumbeous, tomia pearl grey, tarsus plumbeous.

Measurements of Holotype. Exposed culmen 11 mm; wing (flat) 43 mm; tail 40 mm; tarsus 15 mm; total length 110 mm. Weight 6.5 g. Wing formula as